

October 2011

Newsletter by Meryl Harrison

It has been a very busy time for the VAWZ team, with their two vehicles going out to attend to an average of 12 calls and investigations every day.

DONKEYS:-

In early August over 200 donkeys were treated in the Rutenga, Chivi, and Buby areas. Harnesses donated and reflective tape put on the back of the scotch-carts. The Beitbridge Municipal Pound was found to have impounded 61 donkeys without food and water. VAWZ inspectors ordered the release of the donkeys, a meeting was then held the following morning with the Chief Security Officer and the Secretary of the Council. They apologized and ordered water troughs to be built immediately.

On August the 3rd in the Beitbridge Magistrates Court, an accused was found guilty of Cruelty to donkeys and fined \$200 or 4 months. VAWZ was commended on the quality of their photographic exhibits.

DOMESTIC DOGS:-

80 cases of cruelty were reported, investigated and owners warned/educated/animals confiscated/cruelty dockets opened. In one instance an owner was found to have 17 dogs on the property. 16 were confiscated as they were in appalling condition.

SECURITY DOGS:-

20 visits to Security Company dog kennels showed that many of them had not improved the welfare of their dogs resulting in the Dog Masters being given a severe warning, follow-ups will be carried out.

Those who had complied after previous visits by VAWZ were complimented on their improvements.

PUPPY VENDORS:-

These continue to be a nightmare. VAWZ has held meetings with the Mayor, the Municipal Police and ZRP in an effort to get their co-operation on this continuing animal welfare problem.

This week alone, VAWZ has managed to confiscate 9 puppies from the vendors. Unfortunately they spot the VAWZ truck and take off. One confiscation last week ended up with the VAWZ Inspector and the vendor trading blows in the bottom of a ditch they had both fallen into – the vendor escaped but the Inspector got the puppies!

CATTLE TRANSPORTATION:-

One grossly overloaded truck that had run out of fuel in the middle of town was given diesel by VAWZ to get to its destination. This after all the goats and chickens that were being trodden on by the cattle, were removed.

Another owner is being prosecuted after his heavily overloaded truck was found to be un-roadworthy. The cattle were off-loaded at the SPCA, the truck impounded for good by the Vehicle Inspection Depot.

LIONS IN CAPTIVITY:-

The VAWZ team continues to make regular checks on the welfare of the many lions in captivity in Zimbabwe. Some facilities are excellent but many others give cause for concern and we are working to improve these. VAWZ remains opposed to the exploitation of wildlife for commercial purposes.

POULTRY:-

An accident involving a large truck carrying 4200 chickens where the driver was speeding and failed to negotiate a roundabout, resulted in many fatalities and broken cages and took the VAWZ staff 2 hours to reload the chickens onto a relief vehicle. Inspector Tengaruwa from ZNSPCA also attended the scene.

Chicken vendors have been very co-operative with VAWZ, eager to accept advice and assistance with regard to the best way to sell, house and feed their birds.



Bruce” – the last of the confiscated Chinese owned dogs from Guruve, with his new owner “Loice” – it was love at first sight for both!

HARARE AGRICULTURAL SHOW:-

This resulted in a very busy week for Meryl and her staff who attended the show every day. Several animal welfare issues had to be dealt with, with the exhibitors being instructed to improve the conditions of cattle, sheep, pigs, rabbits, chickens, guinea pigs and birds – most not having sufficient food or water.

Some dairy cows from an ARDA farm were found to have wire rings through their noses to “punish” them. These were instantly removed with a bolt cutter.

All loading and off-loading of livestock was also closely monitored.

Conditions at a Pet Shop in the grounds were so appalling that, with the assistance of the Police, all animals and birds were confiscated.

FARM PROBLEMS:-

VAWZ has assisted with livestock on two farms during a worker's strike and an invasion.

Last week they were asked to rescue 4 horses from a farm in Beatrice where the farmer had been evicted. These turned out to be 3 very feisty stallions and a mare possibly in foal. Our sincere thanks to the Parham family for the loan of a truck, driver and grooms. Also a big thank you to April and Angus Thompson for temporarily taking on the 3 testosterone- charged males and the mare who April described as “hormonal and wanting to bite and kick everyone”- however 2 weeks down the line much to everyone's relief she has decided to behave herself!!

VAWZ will be looking for homes for these lovely horses just as soon as the stallions are gelded.

COURT CASES:-

Accused fined \$40 - cruelty to a horse on a farm in Bromley.

“ “ \$40 – docking of a puppy's tail at 4 weeks old.

“ “ \$20 – beating of a puppy in the grounds of Rhodesville Police Station by their gardener.

“ “ \$200 or 4 months prison for cruelty to 2 donkeys in Beitbridge.

9 Accused 140 hours each Community Service for the axing of the Penhalonga dogs and killing a puppy.

EDUCATION:-

Education on animal welfare is of vital importance to young Zimbabweans. To support this, VAWZ's Inspector Bernard Ndlovu has spoken to pupils from 27 schools in Harare and also to the Sakubva High School in Mutare.

AWARDS:-

VAWZ is very proud to have been awarded the African Sun Trophy for Achievement in the Environment and Conservation at the recent Association of Travel Agents Annual Awards evening. This was for work with the wild life especially the many lions in captivity- the trophy was accepted by Dr Ant Donohoe.

Meryl was recently invited to be the Zimbabwean Ambassador for World Animal Day by the UK based organization.

FUNDRAISING:-

VAWZ had a stand at the recent St John's Fair where they were able to sell several illegal yokes removed from donkey owners which then raises money to buy more of the correct harnesses. The yokes make excellent garden ornaments, sign posts etc.

An Exciting forthcoming event will be the hosting of the Premiere of the animated version of Jock of the Bushveld on Friday the 9th December. Music is by Sir Tim Rice who says “the animation is as good as my days in Disney”. This is a “one off” show for Zimbabwe – so not to be missed. Tickets will be available from the Spotlight at REPS Theatre nearer the time.

THANK YOU'S:-

To Dawn Duly and her friend “Linda” + Femina Garments (Byo); The Celebration Centre; Grant Weare; RAM Petroleum; Jenny Faasen and Vic Gifford; Montego Dog Food; Harare SPCA; “Kathy” (UK); Vicky Windsor(USA); “Natalie”; Ballantyne Spar; Tyre Guys: Pippa Cory; Sarah Carter; Ex- Zimbabwean Vets- Dr Mark Donaldson and Dr Rob Reynolds; Cindy Griffith; members of the Kennel Club of Harare; Esme Smithwhite; Di Twiggs: and lastly and by no means least our sincere thanks to the Veterinary Practices that support Meryl and her staff; Gwen Wawn (our hardworking administrator) and our Fundraising Committee of Gwen Wawn, Sue Burr, Lindsay Davies, Gill Houghton, Crystal Wynn, Marianne Jacobs, Di Fynn and Clare Savage, who give of their free time to help with these events.

By donating to VAWZ you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are saving and changing animals lives, undoing the damage caused by cruelty, and preventing future abuse.

*“Zulu” and “Rogue”
from Kwekwe –
“Friendship knows no boundaries”*



VAWZ Banking details:-

Local: CABS Platinum The Veterinarians of Animal Welfare Trust”
a/c No 9015153557.

External: Standard Bank Graaf-reinet “Veterinarians for Animal Welfare in Zimbabwe”
a/c No 186623062; Swift No:SBZA.ZA.JJ; IBAN No: 051001.

Direct transfers may be made via www.standardbank.co.zw